



## Virginia Naturally Report for 2012

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**Business Plan Actions:** To increase the number of partners; communicate regularly; develop regional networks; create online partner resources; increase stewardship by 10%; and promote professional development opportunities, grant funding and new EE resources.

**Reporting period: January 1 – December 31, 2012**

**New Partners:**

**64** organizations signed up as **new partners** during this calendar year. There are over **900** registered Virginia Naturally Partners. Please check the new map.

**Website:**

The Virginia Office of Environmental Education transferred from DEQ to DCR in June 2012. The website is still in the process of moving. DCR could not report a figure for July 1 – December 31. DEQ reported that the Virginia Naturally website received **34,246** hits.

**Facebook:**

The Virginia Office of Environmental Education opened a Facebook account for Virginia Naturally early in 2012. At the end of 2012 there were 208 “likes.”

**Newsletter:**

**7** electronic newsletters sent out to approximately **2,600** partners, formal and non-formal educators, and other subscribers.

**Training:**

Training from the Virginia Office of Environmental Education was provided to **504** community educators (formal and non-formal) at **22** professional development and/or training workshops.

**Conference:**

**120** people attended the Environmental Education Conference at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, Virginia October 25 - 26, 2012

**Classroom Grants:**

Two rounds of Virginia Naturally **Classroom Grants** were awarded to **11 schools** for a total of **\$11,083** in grant funds.

**Virginia Naturally School Recognition:**

**52** schools earned recognition as Virginia Naturally Schools for their efforts during the 2011-2012 school year. The applications for school year 2012 – 2013 are due May 1 – June 30 2013 and can be found at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/education](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/education).

**National Green Ribbon School Recognition:**

2012 was the first year that schools could receive national recognition for being green schools. Fishburn Park Elementary School in Roanoke and the Gereau Center for Applied Technology and Career Exploration in Rocky Mount were the national winners for Virginia.

**Stewardship Virginia:**

Virginians participated in the 2012 Stewardship Virginia Campaign by registering **294** projects. There were **4,000** certificates of appreciation distributed to groups during this time, recognizing those who made a difference in their community. Volunteers participated in **231** waterway and community cleanups. Other projects included **44** plantings and educational programs and **19** wildlife habitat and trail improvements.

**Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant information:**

In FY 2012 318 (out of a possible 324) **local governments** were given non-competitive litter grants for [litter and recycling programs](#). \$1,522,627 was awarded to the local governments which in turn matched these awards with **\$14,140,261** in cash and in-kind services resulting in a match of **928%**.

**Project WET:** Twenty new facilitators were trained in Project WET in 2012. Over the course of the year twenty-eight WET workshops were held to train a total of 322 educators. Also held were two Wonders of Wetlands workshops which trained 24 educators, and one Healthy Water, Healthy People workshop which trained 22 educators.

**Watershed Educators Institute:** The **WEI**, a series of one and two day workshops from Sept. 2012 through June 2013 to train educators about water quality and watershed issues, currently has 56 educators enrolled with 28 of them on track to complete the requirement of 30 hours to receive a certificate of recognition as a watershed education leader.